

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. through 11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) A method for inhibiting formation of p-cresol or p-methylacetophenone causing the generation of deterioration smell of a citral or a citral-containing product comprising:

adding wherein an inhibitor for the generation of deterioration smell of p-cresol or p-methylacetophenone to said citral or citral-containing product is added in an amount between about 1-500 ppm, said inhibitor comprising an extract obtained by extracting one part by weight of semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves 2 - 100 parts by weight of a solvent selected from water, ethanol or a mixture thereof according to a dipping method or a method of by heating under reflux at 100°C or less;[[,]] and

inhibiting formation of p-cresol or p-methylacetophenone by said added inhibitor,

wherein thereby inhibiting generation of a deterioration smell is caused by p-cresol or p-methylacetophenone in said citral or citral-containing product.

13. (Currently amended) A ~~citral or citral-containing product wherein~~ comprising:

a major base component;

a citral component in said major base component; and

an inhibitor for the generation of deterioration smell of p-cresol or p-methylacetophenone in said product is added in an amount between about 1-500 ppm, said inhibitor comprising an extract obtained by extracting one part by weight of semi-

fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves 2 - 100 parts by weight of a solvent selected from water, ethanol or a mixture thereof ~~according to a dipping method or a method of~~ by heating under reflux at 100°C or less,

wherein said product produces less deterioration ~~smell is caused by~~ p-cresol or p-methylacetophenone derived from said citral component, thereby generating less deterioration smell.

14. (New) The product according to claim 13, wherein said major base component is a liquid selected from the group consisting of: purified water, distilled water, ethanol, milk, and any combinations thereof.

15. (New) The product according to claim 13, wherein said major base component is a solid or semi-solid selected from the group consisting of: fat, oil, gelatin, yogurt, and any combinations thereof.

16. (New) The product according to claim 13, wherein said inhibitor is present in said product in an amount between 1 - 100 ppm.

17. (New) The product according to claim 13, wherein said inhibitor is present in said product in an amount between 5 - 30 ppm.

18. (New) The product according to claim 13, wherein said product is an oral care composition selected from the group consisting of: mouthwash, dentifrice, gargle, and any combinations thereof.

19. (New) The product according to claim 13, wherein said product is a drink selected from the group consisting of: coffee, soft drink, lactic acid bacteria drink, fruit-juice drink, non-fruit juice drink, yogurt drink, milk, concentrated milk, and any combinations thereof.

20. (New) The product according to claim 13, wherein said product is a food selected from the group consisting of: confectionery, fried food, oils, fats, cream, butter, cheese, ice cream, yogurt, milk powder, and any combinations thereof.

21. (New) The product according to claim 13, wherein said product is a citrus-series flavor or citrus-series fragrance.

22. (New) The product according to claim 13, wherein said product is a citrus-series drink or citrus-series confectionery.

23. (New) The product according to claim 13, wherein said product is a fragrance or cosmetic.

24. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein said inhibitor is present in said product in an amount between 1 - 100 ppm.

25. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein said inhibitor is present in said product in an amount between 5 - 30 ppm.